

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful review of this application. Applicant has added new claims 16-20. Claims 1-10 and 16-20 remain pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Examiner has objected to Claims 3, 4, 6-8, and 10 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner has stated that Claims 3, 4, 6-8, and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chien, US Patent 5,572,817 (hereinafter Chien). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Cited Art

Chien discloses a multi-color illuminated panel is made up of a decorative frontsheet having windows cut therein and which may include decorative patterns printed thereon, a transparent supporting sheet, which may also have decorative printing thereon, and a pre-wired backsheet in the form of a printed circuit board having multiple individual electro-luminescent light panel segments of different colors affixed thereto and electrically connected to traces on the circuit board. The electro-luminescent light segments of different colors emit light, which shines through corresponding windows and thereby provides a multi-color lighting effect.

The Cited Art Distinguished

Claim 1 in the applicant's disclosure contains the following limitations:

at least one illumination assembly formed by a first set of layers, said illumination assembly including a first electrode, a second electrode, a layer of electroluminescent material disposed between said first and second electrodes, and a plurality of conductive leads connected to corresponding ones of said first and second electrodes, said first electrode being translucent;

a printed circuit layer having a plurality of conductive segments connected to corresponding ones of said first and second electrodes via said conductive leads; and,

an electronic component layer including electronic components having electrical contacts connected to corresponding ones of said segments of said printed circuit layer, said electronic components providing for selective illumination of said illumination assembly;

wherein said printed circuit layer is disposed in a substantially parallel and contiguous relationship with said first set of layers.

With respect to Claim 1, the Examiner has argued that Chien teaches:

“ a multi-color electro luminescent light strip comprising a plurality of discrete electro-luminescent light segments 85-93, wherein the light segments includes a first electrode 3, a second electrode 8, a layer of EL material or phosphor layer between first and second electrodes, a plurality of conductive leads 4 and 10 connected to corresponding ones of the first and second electrodes. A printed circuit layer 108 having conduction segments 95 connected to ones of the first and second electrodes, and electronic component power supply (not shown) connected to connection terminals 96 and 97. The printed circuit layer is parallel with light segments...”

Applicant respectfully contends that Chien does not disclose all the elements of Claim 1. Particularly, Chien does not disclose

an electronic component layer including electronic components having electrical contacts connected to corresponding ones of said segments of said printed circuit layer, said electronic components providing for selective illumination of said illumination assembly;

The Examiner implies that this element is disclosed by mention of a power supply, not shown, connected to terminals 96 and 97 of Fig. 2A in Chien. The location and illustration of these terminals clearly indicate that the power supply components are not part of *an electronic component layer...providing for selective illumination of said illumination assembly* as disclosed by the applicant. The applicant respectfully submits that not all elements of Claim 1 are disclosed by the cited art as required by 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and that Claim 1 is therefore patentable.

Claims 2 through 10 are proper dependent claims reporting to a patentable independent claim, and are also patentable.

With respect to Claim 16, applicant has rewritten Claim 3 to include the limitations of Claim 1, as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 16 is therefore patentable.

With respect to Claim 20, applicant has rewritten Claim 10 to include the limitations of Claim 1, as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 20 is therefore patentable.

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Claims 17-19 are proper dependent claims reporting directly or indirectly to patentable independent Claim 16, and are therefore also patentable.

CONCLUSION

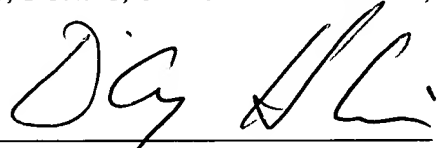
Applicant believes that all pending claims, as amended, are clearly allowable over the known prior art and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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